

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Office Action of October 21, 2005 is respectfully requested.

Accompanying this Office Action is an Information Disclosure Statement with certification under 1.97(e)(2) and a one month extension of time with requisite fee.

To summarize the claim changes made in this amendment, claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended and new claims 5-13 have been added. Claim 2 has been canceled. No new matter is considered to be presented by these amendments and new claims in view of the support contained in the original filed application.

In the present Amendment, the specification has also been amended, which amendments are in accordance in many respects with the Examiner's comments contained in the Office Action. No new matter is considered to be presented by these amendments.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

The present invention relates to a power transmission arrangement of, for example, an all terrain vehicle (ATV) with a continuously variable transmission (CVT).

In a conventional power transmission arrangement for an ATV, the crankshaft, the clutch and the primary shaft of CVT are arranged concentrically. The power transmission is thus elongated in size in the lateral direction of the ATV, and getting on and off on the ATV is difficult. See BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

The present invention describes an arrangement that provides for an advantageous shortening of the width of the power transmission of, for example, an ATV.

In the present application, the transmission has a three-axis structure constructed by the crankshaft, the primary shaft (and the sub-shaft) and secondary shaft with the sub-shaft being arranged parallel and non-concentric relative to the crankshaft. Furthermore, the clutch member is arranged between the primary shaft and the sub-shaft. This makes the transmission system narrow in the lateral direction which is helpful in, for example, an ATV as it provides easy access for the driver.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 is amended according to the Examiner's instruction. "[A] engine" is replaced by the limitation "the engine" to provide a clearer antecedent relative to this environmental subject matter of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 and dependent claims 2-4 are respectfully submitted to be in full conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chana (US 4,504,247), and also by Lupo (US 4,304,150).

Applicants respectfully submit that Chana and Lupo fail both individually and in combination to disclose or suggest the features of the present invention.

For example, claim 1 has the following features:

a) the three-axes of the crankshaft, the sub-shaft (and the primary shaft) and the secondary shaft, with the sub-shaft being arranged parallel and non-concentric with the crankshaft.

b) the clutch member is provided between the primary shaft and the sub-shaft.

These features are not disclosed in either of the cited documents above.

Therefore, claim 1 and dependent claims are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lupo in view of Chana.

As mentioned above, claim 2 is canceled in this response, and for the reasons set forth above amended claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over the prior art.

Claims 3-9 and 12-13 are dependent claims of claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also currently patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10 and 11 are rewritten in independent form and based on the claims that include allowable subject matter in the last Office Action. These claims have also been amended to include "a secondary shaft" reference prior to "said secondary shaft". Accordingly, claims 10 and 11 stand in condition for allowance.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the rejections are overcome. Hence, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.


Also, Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding rejections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to Deposit Account 02-4300; Order No. 032405.167

Respectfully submitted,

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